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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 EUR-25 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

IO-13 AID-20 OMB-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /166 W
---------- 124279
R 181012 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2294
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCEUR
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANAA 1090

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PINS, YE, HS, SA, JO, IZ, SY, UR
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH YAR COMMANDER IN CHIEF

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

SECDEF FOR ISA

1. SUMMARY: IN ABSENCE OF TANGIBLE SUPPORT FROM
NEIGHBORS AND IN KNOWLEDGE OF NEW BLOC WEAPONS DELIVERIES
TO PDRY, CONCERN OF YAR LEADERSHIP ABOUT COUNTRY' S
DEFENSELESSNESS CONTINUES TO MOUNT. INCIDENTS ALONG
BORDER WITH PDRY AND SUBVERSIVE INCURSIONS ARE BOTH
ON THE INCREASE. SOVIETS MADE SOME ACCOMMODATING
GESTURES DURING COMMANDER- IN- CHIEF' S RECENT OFFICIAL
VISIT TO MOSCOW BUT YARG HAS NO ILLUSIONS THAT SOVIETS
WILL DO MORE THAN KEEP IT DANGLING GIVEN THEIR CLEAR
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COMMITMENT TO PUPPET STATE IN SOUTH. YARG WELCOMES PROSPECT OF JORDANIAN ROLE IN YEMEN. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR SAW YAR COMMANDER- IN- CHIEF COL. MUHAMMAD AL- IRYANI JUNE 16 AT LATTER' S REQUEST.

3. PREDICTABLY, BURDER OF IRYANI' S CONCERN WAS THAT DESPITE VISIT SIX WEEKS AGO BY SAUDI GENERAL QABBANI TO SURVEY YAR' S LONG TERM RE- EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, SUBSEQUENT PRESENTATION HV SAG OF LIST OF YEMEN' S MOST IMMEDIATE NEEDS, AND STRENUOUS DIPLOMATIC FOLLOW- UP BY YARG, THERE HAD BEEN NO PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENT IN YAR' S DEFENSES. WITH EXCEPTION OF 23 ANCIENT T-34 S RECEIVED THREE MONTHS AGO, YAR HAD AS YET NOTING TO SHOW FOR ITS EFFORTS WORK OUT A NEW RELATIONSHIP OF CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION WITH SAUDI ARABIA.

4. IRYANI EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE YAR CONTINUED VIRTUALLY DEFENSELESS, SOVIET DELIVERIES TO SOUTH PROCEEDED APACE, WITH MORE MIG 21 S, NOW REPORTEDLY A SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF T-54 S, MORE BLOC MILITARY ADVISORS, THE APPARENT BEGINNING OF MILITARY TRAINING IN CUBA AS WELL AS BY CUBANS UN PDRY, ETC. PDRY' S RESULTANT INCREASINGLY SELF- CONFIDENT DISDAIN FOR MAINTAINING EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF NORMAL CONTACT WITH YAR MANIFEST IN HEIGHTENED TEMPO OF PDRY MILITARY OPERATIONS ALONG BORDER IN PAST DAYS, INVOLVING CLASHES BETWEEN OPPOSING FORCES IN AREAS OF AL- HASHA AND AN ABORTIVE PDRY EFFORT CUT TAIZ- IBB ROAD, AND MORE INCURSIONS BY SABOTEURS CARRYING MINES, EXPLOSIVES AND WEAPONS.

5. CIC COMMENTED THAT WHILE THIS GOING ON, SAUDI AMBASSADOR SUDAIRY IS TELLING CIC AND OTHERS THAT SAG WILL PROVIDE HELP, BUT ONLY AFTER RPT AFTER YARG CLEARS OUT ALL REMAINING BLOCK MILITARY ADVISORS

SUDAIRY APPARENTLY DOES NOT SEE, IRYANI COMPLAINED, THAT YARG ALREADY BEING SUBJECT TO PUBLIC CRITICISM FOR ITS INABILITY CONFRONT SECURITY PROBLEMS MORE

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EFFECTIVELY. THE CHARGE AGAINST IT IS GENERALLY THAT IT HAS SOLD ITS INDEPENDENCE OF POLICY AND ITS NON-ALIGNMENT FOR PROMISES OF ASSISTANCE THAT HAVE NOT BEEN KEPT. IF YARG WERE TO REMOVE REMAINING BLOC ADVISORS BEFORE EFFECTIVE HELP HAD BEGUN TO COME IN FROM NEIGHBORS TO WHOM IT HAS TURNED, CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INTENSIFIED.

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6. CIC EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT PDRY WOULD FIND SOME
PRETEXT LAUNCH ATTACK AGAINST YAR IN NOT MORE THAN TWO
MONTHS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRESENT MILITARY IMBALANCE
BEFORE HELP FROM AREA FRIENDS CAN ARRIVE AND BEGIN TO
BE ABSORBED.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 SANAA 1090

7. IRYANI SAID HIS EARLY MAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO MOSCOW
HAD HEIGHTENED NOT ABATED HIS FEARS. SOME CONTACTS
WITH OLD ACQUAINTANCES WITHIN PDRY EMBASSY THERE HAD
INDICATED THAT SOVIET DELIVERIES TO ADEN, DIRECT AND
THROUGH BLOC FRIENDS, EXCEEDED BY AS MUCH AS 50 PERCENT
CURRENT YARG INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES. FOR EXAMPLE, PDRY
HAS EVIDENTLY RECEIVED 86 T-34 TANKS FROM IRAQ, IRAQ' S
COOPERATION HAVING BEEN INDUCED BY SOVIET ASSURANCE
THAT IT WOULD UP- GRADE IRAQI ARMOR BY REPLACEMENT OF
T-34 S WITH T-54 S. SAME PROCESS HAS BEEN INTRODUCED

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THROUGH SYRIA, WITH SYRIAN ARTILLERY HAVING BEEN
SHIPPED TO PDRY AND MORE MODERN SOVIET EQUIPMENT GOING
TO SYRIA IN REPLACEMENT. IRYANI SAID THAT WHILE IN
MOSLOW HE HAD RECEIVED REPORT, WHICH HE CONSIDERED
ACCURATE, THAT DURING LAST VISIT TO MOSCOW BY PDRY PRIME
MINISTER ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD, PDRY PRIMIN HAD BEEN
TOLD BY KOSYGIN THAT ADEN WOULD CONTINUE TO GET EVERY-
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THING IT NEEDED TO EQUIP ITS ARMED FORCES PROVIDED IT
DID NOT SWERVE FROM PATH OF CONSILIDATING ITS
MARXIST STATE AND COOPERATING WITH SOVIET UNION
IN SPREAD OF MARXIST PRINCIPLES TO ADJOINING PENINSULA
STATES.

8. IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR' S QUERY AS TO WHAT CIC MIGHT
HAVE GOTTEN FOR YAR DURING MOSCOW VISIT, IRYANI SAID
SOME SPARE PARTS FOR SOVIET EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN WRUNG
OUT OF RUSSIANS. HE THOUGHT IT EVEN POSSIBLE THAT THEY
WOULD PROCEED WITH DELIVERY OF SOME OF EQUIPMENT AGREED
AT TIME OF PRESIDENT IRYANI' S VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST YEAR.
HOWEVER, HE HAD IMPRESSION SOVIET COOPERATION WOULD
CONTINUE MINIMAL AND SUCH HELP AS MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING
WOULD BE AIMED AT MINIMIZING YAR' S TURN TO THE
WEST FOR EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING. YARG COULD HAVE NO
ILLUSIONS: SOVIETS HAD CHOSEN ADEN FOR STRATEGIC
ADVANTAGES IT OFFER AS A PUPPET STATE.

9. IN RESPONSE TO CIC' S PRESENTATION, AMBASSADOR NOTED
WE THINK MATTERS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY IN SAG
CONSIDERATION OF YAR REQUIREMENTS, IN WHICH WE ALSO
ENGAGED. ABSENCE OF KING FAISAL AND MINDEF PRINCE
SULTAN MAY HAVE SLIGHTLY HELD UP SOME DECISIONS, BUT
THEIR RETURN EXPECTED SHORTLY. MEANWHILE, WE GRATIFIED
JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR WILL VERY SHORTLY ARRIVE IN SANAA
AND THAT HE APPARENTLY BEEN GIVEN VERY POSITIVE MARCH-
ING ORDERS BY KING HUSSEIN.

10. IRYANI SAID HE WOULD WELCOME ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR
MUSTAFA. HE, TOO, FELT THAT JORDANIANS WOULD BE
POSITIVE AND EFFECTIVE IN THEIR APPROACH.

11. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JUNE 17, PRIMIN
HAJRI WENT OVER MUCH THE SAME GROUND AS CIC,
ALTHOUGH HE ALSO PRESSED HARD ON EMERGENCY FOOD REQUIREMENTS
AMBASSADOR MATE SAME REPLIES IN EFFORT REASSURE.

12. FACT IS THAT, RATIONALLY OR IRRATIONALLY YEMEN' S DEEPLY-
ROOTED HISTORICAL SUSPICIONS OF SAUDIS WILL NOT BEGIN
TO BE LAID TO REST, NO MATTER WHAT ANY US OFFICIAL MAY
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SAY, UNTIL YEMENIS BEGIN TO SEE HELP COMING IN. GIVEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE, AND OURS, AS TO WHAT IS REACHING THE SOUTH, THEIR APPREHENSIONS, EVEN IF EXAGGERATED, SEEM NOT WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION.
CRAWFORD

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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TAGS: MASS, PINS, IZ, JO, SA, SY, UR, YE
To: ADDIS ABABA
AMMAN
CINCEUR
JIDDA
KUWAIT
LONDON
MOSCOW

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